

Jones Library

43 Amity Street, Amherst, MA

[Building Project Website](#)



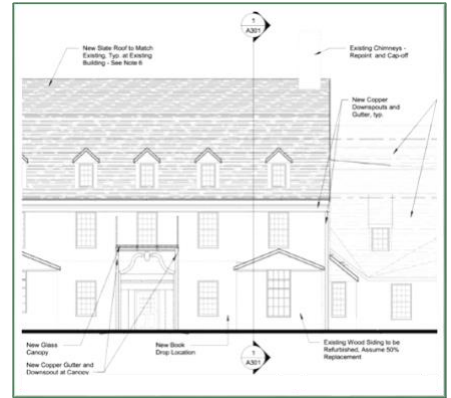
Project Updates

There are 12 communities, including Amherst, that applied for \$96.3M worth of Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program grant funding. Due to the pandemic, the total cost of construction for these 12 projects has escalated from \$235.5M to \$323.2M. The grant funding is awarded as a percentage of the total cost of each project. Due to cost escalations, the grant funding has gone from providing on average 41% of the cost of the projects down to 30%. These 12 libraries, including Amherst, collectively sent an appeal to the governor and lieutenant governor requesting an additional \$87.7M in ARPA money earmarked for library construction projects in the supplemental budget now being created to bridge the cost gap created by the pandemic.

The impacted libraries are actively working with their legislators. Both Senator Jo Comerford and Representative Mindy Domb have been working hard on behalf of our libraries, and you too, can help too by clicking on this link and advocating with the legislature to provide additional funding for these important projects across the state. [Take Action For Massachusetts Libraries!](#)

Amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

On April 5, 2021, the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to enter into a MOA with the Jones Library, Incorporated whereby the Trustees agreed to raise the Library's share of the project costs of \$6.6M. Due to the projected escalation in the project cost, it was determined that this MOA signed last year, should be amended.



Upcoming JLBC Meetings

Jones Library Building Committee

September 29, 4:30 p.m.

Design Subcommittee

None currently scheduled

Outreach Subcommittee

None currently scheduled

Share a Comment in any of these formats

info@joneslibrary.org

[Library Images - add your comments](#)

[Submit a Comment Form](#)

[Ask a Question on AmherstTalks](#)

Reminder: Public Feedback on Schematic Design closed on July 1st.

On September 19, 2022, the Town Council voted to authorize the Town Manager to amend the existing MOA to include a bridging agreement for the time period through the bidding phase of the project. This MOA will enable the project to proceed to a point when cost certainty can be obtained. Although the Library has committed to raising the additional needed funds, the Town will still need to authorize borrowing for the project. Once the bids are unsealed and the actual project costs are known, the project will go back before the Town Council to authorize any additional borrowing, if required.

Value Engineering Update

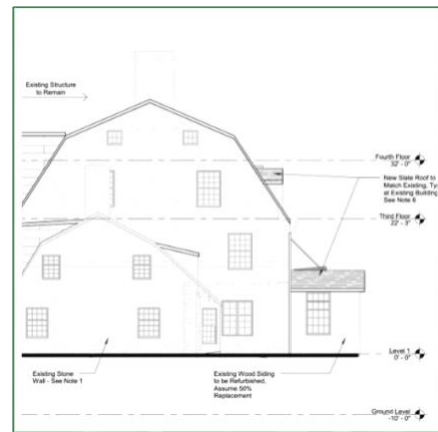
The Design Subcommittee met with the designer and the Owners Project Manager (OPM) on August 30 for a more in-depth review of the proposed value management cuts to the hard costs of the project. The Design Subcommittee then put forth a recommendation of proposed cuts to the Jones Library Building Committee (JLBC), which met on September 8. The JLBC [approved \\$1.9M in cuts](#). In addition to the \$1.9M in cuts, the JLBC approved changing the roofing on the 1928 building from slate to synthetic slate. It is anticipated this will achieve an additional savings, but the estimated savings has not yet been provided by the cost estimators and OPM.

Value Engineering Cuts to Furniture Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E)

The JLBC met again on September 22 to vote on the proposed \$1M cuts to the FF&E budget. (As outlined in Newsletter #9 - FF&E is a separate line item in the budget from the hard costs.) A designer will be hired to plan the actual purchasing and layout of FF&E, but the OPM was asked to give the committee a sense of what the \$1M in cuts might look like for the project. The OPM provided a [sample FF&E cuts](#) based on other projects to help give a general idea of what the cuts might look like. The JLBC voted in favor of cutting the FF&E budget by \$1M.

Updated Project Timeline

The updated MOA is expected to be signed by the first week of October at which point Schematic Design will be finalized and the project will move into the Design Development phase. The OPM shared an [updated project timeline](#) which now reflects the grand reopening of the library in October of 2025.



Document Links

- [updated project timeline](#)
- [approved Value Management cuts](#)
- [schematic design cost estimate 8/23/22](#)
- [schematic design cost estimate 8/9/22](#)
- [schematic design package 7/1/22](#)
- [schematic designs 6/24/22](#)
- [schematic designs 6/21/22](#)
- [schematic designs 5/27/22](#)
- [schematic designs 10/08/20](#)
- [building program](#)
- [projected timeline](#)
- [exterior material options renderings](#)